

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2012

Honorable Buck McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member,

As you know, earlier this month Congressman Scott Rigell (R-VA) and Congressman Jeff Landry (R-LA) introduced H.R. 4388, the Right to Habeas Corpus Act. This bill firmly states that the detainee provisions of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) do not allow for the indefinite detention of citizens without the right of redress. We believe that it is important to move this legislation forward and ask that you include the bill in the text of your proposal for this year's defense authorization act.

The language in the Rigell-Landry bill covers both the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) and the FY2012 NDAA making it explicit that nothing in either one "shall be construed to deny the availability of the writ of habeas corpus."

The Constitution is the highest law of the land and Article 1, section 9 states "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it." We believe that incorporating the Rigell-Landry bill into your new defense authorization act will make it clear beyond a shadow of a doubt that habeas corpus has not been suspended and that no American can be detained unlawfully by the government.

Thank you for your leadership on national security issues. We look forward to working with you as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,



W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress



Rick A. Crawford
Member of Congress



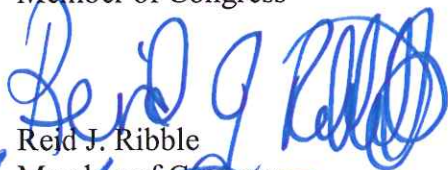
Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress



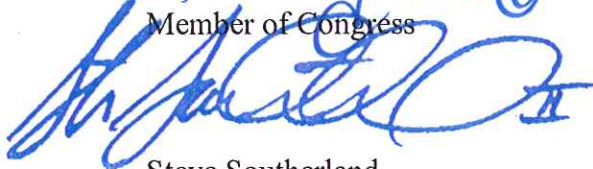
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland
Member of Congress



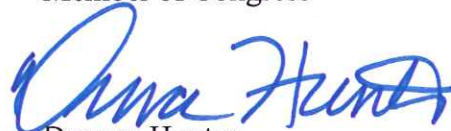
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



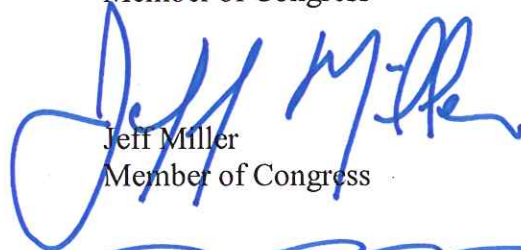
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



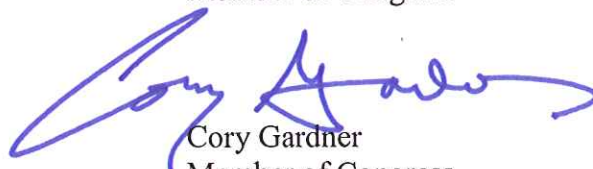
James Lankford
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Todd C. Young
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress